

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A cordless telephone system employing a base station (202) as slave and a plurality of handsets (204a, 204b) as masters is provided. The handsets (204a, 204b) periodically poll the base station. The base station (202) responds with  
5 acknowledge slots and also timing information whereby the handsets (204a, 204b) can adjust their poll timing so as avoid interfering with one another. If an active connection is set up between the base station (202) and a handset (204a), the other handset (204b) is not allowed to poll during the connection, effectively functioning as a system slave for the duration of the connection. Thus, the second handset (204b)  
10 stays synchronized to the first handset (204a) and listens until the connection is completed, whereupon it resumes normal functioning.

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